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GENERAL NEWS.

Mr. Carlisle's currency bill has been knocked in the head and remains on the speaker's table in a state of suspended animation, says William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record. It is in the power of the house to renew the discussion at any time a majority of the members may wish, but it is not expected or even hoped by the managers and advocates of the bill that it will ever be resuscitated. Its defeat is the severest blow the administration has received at the hands of the democratic majority in congress, and if our form of government were like that of France or England or many other nations it would be necessary for the cabinet to resign. According to the English parliamentary term, the vote in the house of representatives to-day was an expression of "lack of confidence" in the administration—that is, in its financial policy. But there is just as much difference of opinion in the cabinet as there is in the house upon the merits of the bill. As I have stated before in these dispatches, Secretaries Gresham, Carlisle, Herbert and Smith have favored its passage, while Messrs. Lamont, Morton, Bissell and Olney are decidedly opposed to it, and within the last few days the president has positively stated that he did not himself approve of the bill that was prepared and presented to congress by his secretary of the treasury. I believe this is the first time in the history of the government that such a situation has existed. I do not believe any previous president ever permitted a member of his cabinet to formulate and ask congress to pass a bill which he did not endorse; but as I explained a few days ago, the president permitted the introduction of this bill because he favored an agitation and a discussion of the currency question with the hope, if not the expectation, that it would be finally licked into a shape that would be acceptable to the business men of the country.

Next Saturday afternoon, Jan. 19, the members of the Thirty-eighth general assembly will go to Columbia as guests of the curators of the State University to inspect the new buildings and be otherwise entertained. Incidentally, much will be learned about the necessities for appropriations. To further complicate university affairs, two new bills have been introduced. One of them was presented by Senator Yeater, and provides for a school of journalism, similar to the one established at Pennsylvania University, and places the journalistic school on the same footing as the schools of law and medicine. Another bill relating to the State University was introduced by Senator Lyman, providing for the establishment of a homeopathic school of medicine, so that students could take choice between the two opposing schools. The homeopathic physicians have had a lobby in town ever since the legislature convened, and have succeeded in deeply interesting some of the legislators in their school of medicine. A second bill, introduced by Senator Lyman, gives the homeopathic school control of the Insane Asylum at Fulton, and appoints a board of five members, two of whom shall be regular homeopathic physicians, to control it. The homeopaths contend that their school is the only one which can successfully treat the insane and demand a trial.

Crops of Last Year.

A Washington dispatch says the estimates of the area of product and value by states and territories of the cereal crops, together with those of hay, potatoes and tobacco, have been completed by the statistician of the agricultural department and are presented as follows: The corn crop of 1894, in rate of yield, is one of the lowest on record. Severe drought and dry winds in a few of the principal corn-producing states reduced the area harvested

for grain value to 62,582,000 from the 70,000,000 acres planted. The product garnered is 1,212,770,000 bushels having an estimated farm value of \$554,719,000.

The wheat crop is about an average yield per acre. The entire product of the country is 460,487,416 bushels, which is below the average for the five years 1890 to 1894, inclusive. The farm value of the crop is \$225,902,025.

The area, according to revised estimates, is 34,882,436 acres. In the revision of area the principal changes have been made in the spring wheat states.

The rate of yield is 13.2 bushels per acre. The average value per bushel is 43.1c.

The estimates for oats are 23,553,000 acres; product, 662,086,928; value, \$214,816,920; yield per acre, 21.5 bushels.

Rye—Area, 1,044,780 acres; product, 26,727,615 bushels; value, \$13,394,476.

Barley—Area, 3,170,602 acres; product, 61,400,465 bushels; value, \$27,135,127.

Buckwheat—Area, 789,232 acres; product, 12,668,200 bushels; value, \$7,040,278.

Potatoes—Area, 7,737,973 acres; product, 170,787,338 bushels; value, \$91,526,787.

Tobacco—Area, 523,103 acres; product, 406,678,385 pounds; value, \$27,760,739.

Christianity Defended.

Cardinal Gibbons preached on Christianity at the cathedral on a great audience, says a Baltimore dispatch. His sermon was devoted largely to an answer to attacks by Robert C. Ingersoll. He declared that the Christian religion had been cherished by the wisest men for centuries and was stronger than ever. All civilizations of the past thousand years and all of the best of to-day were based on the Bible. The reasons for the rapid diffusion of the Christian religion were given as follows:

First—The Christian religion gave the pagan world a rational idea of God. It proclaimed a God essentially one and self-existing, of a God existing from eternity unto eternity. This idea of a Supreme Being, so consonant to our intellectual conception was in striking contrast with the low and sensual notions which the pagan world ascribed to their divinities.

Second—The Christian religion not only gave man a sublime idea of his Creator, but gave him also a rational idea about himself. Hitherto man was a mystery and a riddle to himself. He knew not whence he came, or whether he was going. It rescued him from the frightful labyrinth of error in which paganism had involved him. The Christian religion gave not only light to his understanding, but peace to his heart. It brought him that peace of God which surpasseth all understanding and which springs from the conscious possession of the truth.

The Christian religion has now, as it ever had, a message for the capitalist and workman. It admonishes the employer to compensate the laborer by fair and just wages and, what is more, to bestow upon him kind and considerate treatment and to keep in view the golden maxim of Christ: "Whatsoever you would that man should do to you, do ye unto him."

All the works of God have one striking characteristic; they all bear the divine stamp of individuality. There are no two stars alike in magnitude and splendor. Each of you are created alone; you had a separate growth, a separate sanctification and will have a separate death. You are judged alone, you are rewarded alone, you are punished alone. Each one stands on his own foundation. "What a man soweth, that shall he reap also." But above all, God loves each one of you personally. He does not contemplate the human family in the mass, as we regard a heap of sand. He has loved each of you with an eternal love.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

PATTON.

It is almost too cold for outdoor business, and I know of no better way of putting in my time than to give the good readers of THE PRESS a few more items from Patton. I hope they may be of interest to some one.

Health is very good.

T. B. Drum was here on business Friday.

J. R. Rogers' show visited this place last week.

The Messrs. Robinson moved into their new quarters Thursday.

M. F. and G. A. Bollinger made a business trip to St. Louis this week.

The boys had fireworks the other night with ~~some~~ all mixed up in it.

Joseph Hicks has gone to Florida, where he will remain a few months.

The mercury fell to zero Saturday morning, this being the coldest of the winter.

Marion Reed of Patton, who has been attending the medical college at St. Louis, came home on a visit last week.

The young folks enjoyed a pleasant dance "warming up" R. & D. Robinson's new store room and are under lasting obligations to those gentlemen.

ZALMA.

The following are the gleanings of Zalma for the last week:

Aunt Nora Bollinger is improving.

Roger Jamison is down with pneumonia.

Ump James went to Brownwood Tuesday.

Grandma Brooks died last Saturday morning.

Charles King shipped a car load of hogs Tuesday.

James Huse of Brownwood was in the city Sunday.

Brother Hembre preached here Saturday and Sunday.

Simpkins & King shipped a car load of hogs Tuesday.

The box factory is shut down during this pretty weather.

Samuel Feltingbarger was confined to his bed the first of the week.

Col. Green of Lutesville was here Sunday and added a few remarks to the excellent sermon of Brother Hembre.

Mrs. Cal Brown gave birth to twins Saturday night; neither of them lived.

J. H. Watkins and A. C. King took a drove of cattle to Cape Girardeau Tuesday.

Miss Pace of Elsinore is doing office work for John King this week, while he is in the city.

Daggie Speer left for Hale's college, not long since, where he will attend school till June.

David Wells of Marble Hill is visiting friends near Zalma this week.

SHEENY.

NORTH ZALMA.

As my previous communication escaped the waste basket, I will come again.

Mrs. Alfred Shell is still very sick.

Our store is doing a flourishing business.

Cholera is killing some hogs in this section.

Enos Galaway's family are all on the sick list.

North Zalma is as lively as a young cricket.

Improvement is the order of the day in North Zalma.

Rev. Pinnell preached a good sermon at Eaker chapel Sunday.

Randolph James and Minor Deck killed several deer while the snow lasted.

Mrs. Franklin Roberts has returned from a visit to friends in Illinois.

Our blacksmith has thawed out and the sound of his hammer is heard once more.

David Eakar, George and John Draper and several others are clearing new grounds.

Daniel Shell and family have removed from North Zalma to a farm west of Perkins' creek.

Edward Wells' brother-in-law

and family of Ste. Genevieve county have moved to this locality.

The "beautiful" has passed away and ere long the melodious song of the frog will be heard in the distance.

North Zalma is trying to secure a postoffice, with some show of success. Now for water works and electric street cars and we'll be fixed.

The Republicans in this vicinity are already saying, "We told you so." They had better wait a while. They haven't got rid of their swaddling cloths yet in this county.

Times being hard has prevented several weddings from taking place in this neighborhood this winter. Corn bread comes high and two eat more than one. Water is plenty and cheap, though, at present.

I hear someone say that, "old maid has lots of gas," so I will close for this time.

MOLLIE.

CASTOR.

Robert Finley had an attack of typhoid fever, but is better now.

Dr. Hull of Marquand was in our town one day last week. He has been treating young Finley.

G. W. Burns, the champion lightweight of Castor, was over at Gravelton last Sunday. Uncle Lige was not at home.

Several carloads of cattle and hogs have been shipped from this locality and there are a few yet to ship, but the owners are holding for the February market.

Col. McManus, the United States ganger at Allbright's, says the democrats have not left the county, but will show up their old-time majorities in 1896. "So mote it be."

Fred Shetley closed a five months' term of public school in this district last Friday. Fred is one of the best teachers in this part of the state and has made a record few have attained at his age.

Bill Shetley has sold his farm on Trace creek and has bargained for the Sol Whitener farm, in Madison county, near Gravelton. I am sorry he is leaving Bollinger, as he is the kind of man we need.

Most farmers here broke up land for corn during the fine weather in December and many have ground ready for their entire crop. Corn is the principal crop here and seldom fails to make a good yield.

There has been considerable sickness in this neighborhood the last two weeks, Mrs. Ben Whitener and son Newton with severe attacks of pneumonia. Dr. A. Keeln has been treating them and both are now out of danger.

Bannister Bros., of circus fame, have pulled in their "wild and woolly west" show and gone into winter quarters at Bent Rhodes'. The famous Gen. Felix is with them. The boys are popular here, especially with the girls.

Mitt Kinder has Tice Meyers and son, carpenters, repairing his house; has half of a new roof on and other work pushing. Mitt is a hustler when he sets himself that way, and the spirit of improvement is now strong within him.

M. J. Shetley still wears the same good-natured smile he had on when he told me, a short while back, that there were "two of them this time." Jim is one of the most successful farmers in the county and always has the best crops on the river.

The Baptists here are building a large frame church house which, when finished will be a credit to the neighborhood and speak well for the religious zeal of the congregation, which is not large. It is being erected near Amon T. Whitener's.

This section of the country has been treated to a share of the prevalent snowstorms which have visited the state since the advent of the new year, and while the snow lasted the woods were full of hunters and a number of deer were slain along the hills bordering on the famous Castor.

When I get to heaven, said the small boy who has lately begun the study of Genesis, "the first thing I am going to do is to hunt up Adam and give him a licking."

SOUTHEAST NEWS.

T. H. Bradley, an old and highly esteemed citizen of Poplar Bluff, died Jan. 3.

Birch Tree Record: Ex-Treasurer Jadwin of Shannon county is short in his accounts \$7,530.45.

I. M. Davidson, former prosecuting attorney of Butler county and mayor of Poplar Bluff, died in that place.

Jan. 10, ex-County Judge B. F. Hunter, one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of Scott county, died at his home in Sikeston.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch. While returning home Jan. 2 Judge W. N. Ringer of Dexter fell upon the ice and cut a gash in his knee cap. Blood poison set in, followed by lockjaw, and he died in great agony Jan. 9.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch: A highwayman relieved Thomas Thompson, a merchant of Puxico, Mo., of \$400 in cash last Friday night. As Thompson was counting his day's sales preparatory to closing his store, a stranger walked in and demanded his money. Thompson showed fight, but a pistol made him unload his money drawer and save. The robber is supposed to be a tramp who has been at Puxico for several days. The robber made good his escape.

At 6 o'clock Saturday morning, says a Bonne Terre dispatch to the Republic, John Crippen went into Henry Howard's saloon at Elvins, a mining camp on Flat river, and, drawing a revolver, opened an indiscriminate fusillade, driving everybody, including the barkeeper, out of the place. Then going behind the bar he possessed himself of the cash drawer and was going to run the place, when the barkeeper returned and attempted to eject him; thereupon he stabbed the barkeeper in the neck, who in turn fired four pistol shots into Crippen's body from which he died shortly afterward.

DeSoto Gazette: One of the men of this city effectually saved from financial and domestic wreck by the Keely cure is Cigarmaker Jim Black and he isn't ashamed to have us publish the fact. Last March Jim took the cure right after a big spree which he had wound up with target practice on a picture in his shop, in which he had bored every head in the chromo full of 22-caliber holes and he hasn't touched a drop of anything since stronger than Maunth's double compressed sarsaparilla. One of the results is that he has been making better cigars, doing a more thriving business and steadily increasing the size of his wad of greenbacks. His pistol, too, is getting rusty.

Many of our readers will remember "Jim" Black as an old resident of Marble Hill.

Deputy United States Marshal Wall returned on a morning train from Wayne county, whither he went to serve an execution on Dr. J. L. Allison in satisfaction of a judgment obtained against him by the United States in 1873, says the Post-Dispatch of Jan. 12. Mr. Wall collected from Dr. Allison \$276, which was the amount of the court costs and interest on \$82.48, the shortage in the accounts of Hugu P. Allison, brother of Dr. Allison, who was postmaster at Greenville in the early 70's. Dr. Allison and Rush Byrne were the official bondsmen of Postmaster Allison, long since dead. Byrne is also dead. The shortage was not due to any criminal intent. The amount of the judgment against Dr. Allison was \$138.38, and the interest on this was \$103.55. At the time judgment was obtained Dr. Allison had no property upon which the government could levy. When a railroad was built near Chonoma, a few years ago, Dr. Allison went into the timber business and has accumulated \$4,000 or \$5,000. The government learned this and the authorities at Washington instructed District Attorney Clifton to collect the long standing judgment.